

with the Republic of Armenia given a central role in the process. As I mentioned, Karabagh won the war and holds the strategic advantage. It's unrealistic and unfair to expect Karabagh to give up its gains on the battlefield for vague promises at the negotiating table.

Another key point on the Karabagh negotiations. It is no secret that Azerbaijan has had the support of big oil interests in its corner. Azerbaijan's territory may have significant oil reserves beneath it in the Caspian Sea area, although some new studies question just how significant these resources may be. Unfortunately, powerful and well-connected lobbyists for the oil industry have basically backed up Azerbaijan's intransigence in the negotiating process over Karabagh. I am afraid our administration's policy has tended to side with Azerbaijan because of the oil issue. I hope that Members of Congress who are involved in this issue can work with me in getting the administration to convince Azerbaijan and the oil industry that the development of those resources will continue to be complicated until the Karabagh issue is resolved.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, another very troubling aspect of this issue is the indications of possible illegal transfers of U.S. or NATO standard weapons and other military supplies being sent to Azerbaijan by Turkey. Turkey has long sided with Azerbaijan. One of the major complications of the conflict is the blockade of Armenia and Karabagh by Azerbaijan, and Turkey's blockade of Armenia, in support of Azerbaijan. These blockades have made life hard for the Armenian people, stopping vitally needed humanitarian relief supplies from the U.S. and other countries. Now there are growing indications that Turkey is funneling military equipment to Azerbaijan, something I have seen myself in a previous visit to the front lines in Nagorno Karabagh. As part of our efforts to resolve the conflict over Karabagh, we must restrain our NATO ally Turkey from contributing more fuel to the fire in the form of arms and other military supplies.

Just a few weeks ago, I opposed the suggestion that appeared in the media that Turkey may want to transfer American F-16 fighter planes to Azerbaijan. That country already has air superiority because it inherited a lot more airplanes from the Soviet Union than did Armenia. F-16s would give Azerbaijan overwhelming air superiority.

There are now suggestions that Turkey may transfer advanced NATO howitzer (cannon artillery) to Azerbaijan. The U.S. government cannot allow its military equipment to be used against our Armenian friends.

I am currently working with some of my colleagues in this body to determine the level of Turkish support for Azerbaijan's military and in putting pressure on Turkey to be a partner in the search for a lasting peace in the region—not a contributor to a continuing cycle of violence and tensions.

CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton seems like he is absolutely committed on this upcoming trip to China. We have asked him to reconsider this trip and, no, he will not reconsider the trip. And Congress officially asked him whether or not he would at least attempt not to do something in Tiananmen Square which would then make a mockery of the human rights commitments of this country by holding some sort of meeting with people who murdered hundreds if not thousands of human rights activists at that very same location 10 years ago. But, again, we were rebuffed in that request as well. The President of the United States as the President of the world's leading democracy will visit, then, the world's leading human rights abuser, the world's most powerful totalitarian regime.

Well, this President does have an excuse. Yes, in the past President Reagan visited China and so did President Bush. But in the past when Presidents have visited China, I think it is important for us to understand that China at that time was in a transition, or going through changes that made it appear that China would someday evolve out of its dictatorship.

□ 1800

And thus it is all right to visit a country that is not free, but it seems to be going in the right direction in that its government is permitting more freedoms. Unfortunately that is not the case for this Presidential visit. China, since the killings at Tiananmen Square, has become even more tyrannical, and more belligerent, and more aggressive and has more power to commit aggression against its neighbors.

Spokesmen for the administration say that the President will be calling for a strategic partnership with this Communist regime. Well, naturally calling for a strategic partnership with this totalitarian regime, this powerful totalitarian regime, is causing concern among other countries in that region that are democratic countries.

We have already seen the results of the folly of the President's policies. India felt obliged to reaffirm its own nuclear arsenal with an explosion, of a nuclear explosion. The Pakistanis followed. So what we have is an unrest in the subcontinent and a greater chance for conflict, a massive, horrible conflict, between the Pakistanis and the Indians because of this unrest and this proliferation that can be traced right back to the President's China policies. In other words, the world is not as safe as it was.

Then we have lesser gangsters in the world like you find in Kosova where you have a murderous regime next door in Serbia thinking that they can go into Kosova and murder people in order

to get them to submit. Now why are they doing this? Why does the regime, Milosevic's regime, which was guilty of so many human rights abuses in Bosnia earlier, now feel that they could perhaps do it again? It is because this administration has lost its moral basis, has lost its standing, has lost the principles in which it had so that in which people gave it respect if residing with those principles.

There are credible reports from Kosova that indicate that a repeat of the most horrific acts that we have seen in the Balkans is going on right now. Milosevic and his goons, the Serbian dictatorship, the last Communist dictatorship on the continent of Europe, have turned their bloody knives on the people of Kosova especially targeting vulnerable civilian populations for ethnic cleansing, not only in the border areas, but deep into the heartland of Kosova where the people are almost all Albanian, of Albanian extraction. It is incredible that despite the assurances by this administration that their diplomacy is succeeding in calming down Mr. Milosevic and keeping him under control, we are seeing numerous reports of entire villages being wiped out, with the news media discovering pools of blood in the streets of these villages. We have reports from family members of Albanians, men having their throats slit right in front of their families and of indiscriminate artillery bombardment of marketplaces.

Mr. Speaker, our government and our European allies should not stand by and wring their hands. We must act forcefully, and we must stand on principle. Unfortunately the pronouncements of this administration as far as tyrants, whether they are big and small, it seems that these pronouncements by this administration are not being taken seriously.

We can see in China where they continue their own proliferation of the nuclear technology that we have given them as well as building up their forces, their military forces, and stepping up their opposition and here with a small dictatorship when we face that dictatorship of Milosevic in Serbia.

The world is a less safe place because we strayed from our fundamental principles.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have informed this body a few weeks ago that I would be coming to report on how the District of Columbia is proceeding as it moves to improve itself in the city. But my internal campaign is behind the times because the improvements are coming so fast and furious.

Have you seen this morning's Washington Post? On the front section of

the Metro section, two stories lead. D.C. Test Results Seen as Progress; that is about our youngsters who were doing so poorly in the schools. The other, Mr. Speaker, says For Washington a Positive Mark of Distinction.

Let me be explicit. The District of Columbia is the best large city or place to live in the eastern United States, according to Money Magazine's latest ranking of the 300 most livable areas in the Nation. It is not us, Mr. Speaker; that is an objective observer, Money Magazine, which has not always rated your Nation's Capital thusly. New York City has already been heard to complain, but I do not believe that anyone in this Chamber has any reason to complain, because, Mr. Speaker, while this is our hometown, it is your capital of the United States.

We have all be criticizing that capital. It is time for us to now start rooting for that capital as it pulls itself up by its own bootstraps.

Money Magazine has an objective formula which it uses to designate the city. The entire details of that formula are not public, but we do know that they rated air quality, medical care, property taxes and cultural facilities.

There are other improvements in the District that we know cleared the way for this designation. For example, Money Magazine noted our higher than average crime rate. But, Mr. Speaker, the crime rate in the District of Columbia went down 20 percent, virtually the largest reduction in the country last year.

The national news recently had a story about crime going down in the country, and they used as an example public housing in the District of Columbia.

Something important and different is happening in this city, and this body needs to take note of it.

Much else has happened in hometown Washington that cleared the way for this designation. A surplus, Mr. Speaker, not a balanced budget, but a surplus 2 years ahead of when it was expected. Public housing now off the troubled housing list; a Summer Stars program which will end social promotion here in the District of Columbia, one of the first cities to do so in the Nation.

Scores up in our schools, and, Mr. Speaker, I do want to read from that so that you will hear it from the newspaper and not from the Member:

D.C. Public School System showed improvements in most grade levels in the last scores from standardized tests. That follows last year when students showed no improvements whatsoever. Our hats should be off to Dr. Arlene Ackerman, the new superintendent who has helped make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, the control board is going to set 2 years earlier than anticipated because the District has moved ahead with such energy to improve its finances and now to improve its management. Money Magazine has gotten the word. I come to the floor this evening to make sure that this House gets the word, too.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHENOWETH addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONDEMNATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, on June 1, 1998, the Islamic Republic of Iran claimed its latest Jewish victim. Rouhollah Kadkodazadeh, a 60-year-old Jewish businessman, disappeared about 10 weeks ago. His relatives did not know where he was, and his relatives' search for him led nowhere until June 1, when the authority, the Iranian authorities, called the relatives in and said, "Pick up the body."

No trial date was ever supplied. In fact, it is not even clear whether a trial ever took place or whether Kadkodazadeh was afforded legal representation or the ability to prepare a credible defense. Reportedly, Mr. Speaker, he was charged with being a Zionist, a spy for Israel and a corrupting person on earth; those are all quotes; which can mean anything defined as corrupt in the opinion of the tyrannical Iranian regime.

Recent perceptions of moderation and openness and public declarations by Iranian authorities, especially President Mohammed Khatemi, about respect for human rights and the rule of law were beginning to restore a glimmer of hope to Iranian religious minority groups after years of persecution, arrests and extrajudicial killings. This latest execution of a Jewish Iranian only serves to undermine any notion that a meaningful restoration of civility is coming to Iran any time soon.

With all the economic hardships, pressures and social and ideological fragmentation which today characterize Iranian society, it is safe to assume that if Israel or anyone else even needed spies in Iran, they could easily locate many less watched people who would probably have better access to confidential information than a 60-year-old Jewish businessman.

In this vein the claim that Kadkodazadeh was conducting espionage for Israel does not appear to be credible at all. It is more of the same, more nonsense from the Iranian regime which has no credibility whatsoever. More likely it was an effort to keep an already fearful population, the Jewish population in Iran, about 10,000 strong, living in fear.

As to the charge of Zionism, the fact that such an accusation still carries the death penalty in Iran speaks volumes about that country's respect for the freedom of thought and expression.

But even if one was to accept this notion as a reality, the simple truth about Kadkodazadeh attested to by those who knew him well is that he was not a Zionist. In fact, according to information I have been provided, he was not politically oriented at all. In Iran very few people are willing to engage in Zionist activities given the government's open hostility to Israel and Zionism itself.

All indications are that Kadkodazadeh was an ordinary Jewish person in Iran with no significant distinguishing characteristics from other average Iranian Jews. Making the logical assumption that those who brought him to execution knew these facts, one would conclude that some power within the Iranian regime wanted a Jew killed.

As with similar cases throughout the past, the reasons for such killings have been varied. Some believe that radical elements who oppose the somewhat more moderate government's rapprochement with the West and also happened to control the security apparatus as well as the judiciary undertake these sorts of actions in order to discredit the government. Others contend that the execution is simply the result of open hostility to religious minorities in Iran.

Whatever the reason for Kadkodazadeh's execution, the world needs to understand that Iranian Jews can no longer carry the burden of supplying a constant stream of sacrificial lambs so that the various factions in Iran can play out their political games. No matter which faction was responsible for the actual killing, the Government of Iran must be on notice that they and only they are responsible for preserving the rights and safety of all citizens of Iran, be they Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, Muslim or otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, we in the United States Congress must condemn this brutal act of execution, we must call attention to this brutal act of execution and serve notice in Iran that as a rogue state, she will not be allowed normalization within the international community until there is respect for human rights, democratization and an end to encouraging terrorism and extremism both inside and outside of its borders. What happened in Iran with Mr. Kadkodazadeh is a disgrace, a sham, and should be condemned by all freedom-loving people all across the earth.

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COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Chicago Board of Trade.